

Native Grassland Restoration

FY 2022 EQIP-CIC High Priority Area

1/19/2022



Description

The Native Grassland Restoration High Priority Area (HPA) will concentrate on native grassland management for both grazing resource concerns and wildlife habitat. The focus area covers the entire state of Missouri.

All projects must include a primary management practice that manages native grassland for livestock production and/or wildlife habitat. This includes systems where native grasses are an existing part of the operation or those wanting to add them to their operation

Primary practices include prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and early successional habitat management, along with management of hay land and use of annual forages for grazing during the establishment period when converting to native grasses. Additional supporting practices can then be applied to improve forage diversity or management, including transitioning part of the grazing operation from introduced grasses to native grasses, infrastructure for improved grazing distribution such as fencing and water sources, and bringing expiring CRP or cropland into grazing production. Wildlife habitat can also be improved or established through grass/forb plantings specifically for wildlife (such as for monarchs/ pollinators), restoration of prairie or savanna on applicable ecological site descriptions, and establishment of shrubby cover. Prescribed grazing may be applicable on some of these habitats once established, either as short-term management or as part of the overall operation, depending on client objectives.

Geography

Statewide

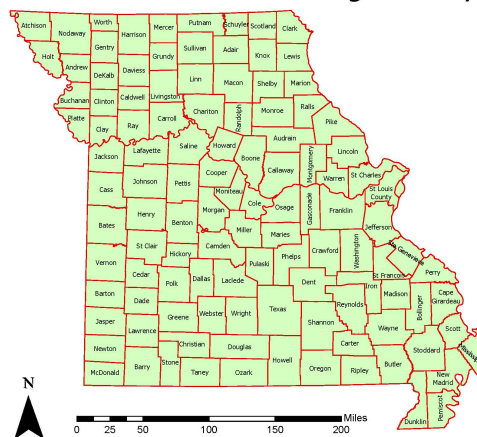
Land Uses

1. Pasture
2. Associated Agricultural Land (AAL)
3. Cropland

Priority Resource Concerns

1. Terrestrial Habitat
2. Livestock Production Limitation

Native Grassland Restoration High Priority Areas



What is EQIP-CIC?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) allows producers to target priority resource concerns on their property by offering annual incentive payments for key practices. These identified practices, along with supporting practices, address the implementation, adoption, management, and maintenance needed for producers to build on their current level of conservation and see the benefits of longer-term conservation.

EQIP-CIC can be a stepping-stone between the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP-CIC offers a unique opportunity for a 5 year contract with an annual payment, without enrolling the entire operation into the program. The flexibility can be a gateway to future participation in CSP enrollment and achievement of a higher level of conservation stewardship on their entire operation.

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Available Practices

The following conservation practices are available to support addressing the priority resource concern(s) for this EQIP-CIC High Priority Area.

Conservation Practices

Primary

- 338 - Prescribed Burning
- 511 - Forage Harvest Management
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development-Management
- 810 - Annual Forages for Grazing Systems

Supporting

- 314 - Brush Management
- 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- 342 - Critical Area Planting (in conjunction with 378)
- 378 - Pond
- 382 - Fence
- 390 - Riparian Buffer
- 394 - Firebreak
- 420 - Wildlife Habitat Planting
- 472 - Access Control
- 484 - Mulching
- 490 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting (native species)
- 516 - Livestock Pipeline
- 533 - Pumping Plant
- 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
- 574 - Spring Development
- 578 - Stream Crossing
- 612 - Tree/Shrub Planting
- 614 - Watering Facility
- 642 - Water Well
- 643 - Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- 649 - Structures for Wildlife

Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP-CIC assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional
- Organic
- Specialty crops
- Commodity crops
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations
- Historically underserved farmers*

*Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans).

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/.



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